



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/590,057

12/14/2006

Laurent Martin

129161

5621

25944 7590 06/15/2009  
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC  
P.O. BOX 320850  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850

EXAMINER

WESTBROOK, SUNSURRAYE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3612

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/15/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/590,057	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MARTIN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> SUNSURRAYE WESTBROOK	<b>Art Unit</b> 3612	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period **will** apply and **will** expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply **will**, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/17/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bruderick (2004/0108753).

Referring to claim 1, Bruderick et al. discloses an intermediate support element for a front fender (130, fig 1) of a motor vehicle (100, fig 1), this support element being able to be mounted on an upper beam (120I&r, fig 1) of the chassis of the motor vehicle and comprising:

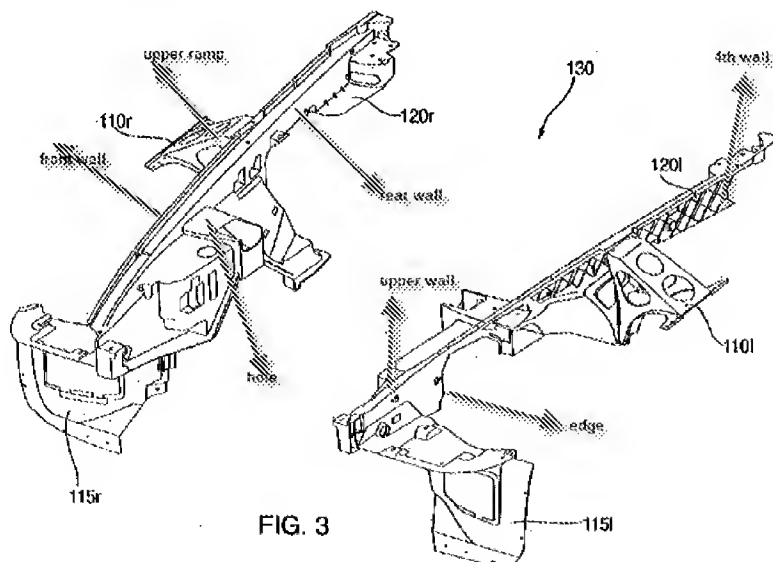
a body (240, fig 5) and at least one breakable protuberance (110I&r, fig 3) projecting upward and to which said front fender is intended to be fixed, said protuberance comprising at least one front wall (see inserted fig below) connected by a frangible zone (405, fig 5) to said body, a rear wall (see inserted fig below) connected by the frangible zone to said body and a third wall (see inserted fig below) which the frangible zone connects to said body and which rigidly connects the front wall and the rear wall to each other.

Art Unit: 3612

Referring to claim 2, Bruderick et al. also discloses opposite the third wall, the breakable protuberance has a fourth wall (see inserted fig below) which the frangible zone connects to said body and which rigidly connects the front wall and the rear wall to each other.

Referring to claim 3, Bruderick et al. further discloses the frangible zone surrounds the breakable protuberance (see fig 3).

Referring to claim 4, Bruderick et al. furthermore discloses the frangible zone is a thinned zone (see fig 3) having a thickness which is in particular less than the body and the front wall, the rear wall and the third wall of the protuberance.



Referring to claim 5, Bruderick et al. additionally discloses the third wall of the protuberance is drilled with a hole (see inserted fig above) for the passage of means for fixing the fender to the protuberance.

*\*\*Note: Claim 5 was not treated under 112 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph for rejection.*

Referring to claim 6, in addition, Bruderick et al. discloses said body has an upper wall (see inserted fig above) which is provided with the protuberance, at least one upper oblique release ramp (see inserted fig above) on the side of an edge (see inserted fig above) of the front fender fitted to the upper wall and, at its lowest point, reaching a side edge of this upper wall.

Referring to claim 7, Bruderick et al. also discloses it is molded in a thermosetting polymer (see paragraph 0037).

Referring to claim 8, Bruderick et al. further discloses that the thermosetting polymer is filled with fibers and non-filiform particles (see paragraph 0037).

Referring to claim 9, Bruderick et al. furthermore discloses it contains between 25 and 40% by weight of thermosetting polymer, between 18 and 25% by weight of glass fibers and between 40 and 50% by weight of non-filiform particles (see paragraph 0006).

Referring to claim 10, Bruderick et al. additionally discloses the thermosetting polymer is electrically conductive (see paragraph 0037).

Art Unit: 3612

Referring to claim 11, in addition, Bruderick et al. discloses means for positioning at least one front piece of equipment of the motor vehicle, such as a lighting assembly (115) and, fig 2), a front façade (702, fig 7) or a hood (703, fig 7).

*\*\*Note: Claim 5 was not treated under 112 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph for rejection.*

Referring to claim 12, Bruderick et al. also discloses in section along any antero-posterior vertical plane, the protuberance is inside a first enveloping circle (see fig 3) which has its center (see fig 3) in the middle of a front portion of the frangible zone, in front of the protuberance, and passes through the middle (see fig 3) of a rear portion of the frangible zone, behind the protuberance, and in that in section along any antero-posterior vertical plane, the protuberance is inside a second enveloping circle (see fig 3) which has its center (see fig 3) in the middle of the rear portion of the frangible zone, and passes through the middle of the front portion of the frangible zone.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruderick (2004/0108753) in view of Anderson (US 6736434).

Art Unit: 3612

Regarding to claim 13, Bruderrick et al. teach the limitations of claim 4.

Bruderrick et al. do not teach a method for molding an intermediate support element in which a mold is used which comprises at least one fixed part and one movable part and which delimits a molding chamber and at least one discharge passage communicating with this molding chamber, the latter comprising at least one portion which corresponds to said thinned zone of the intermediate support element and which is located between the fixed part and the movable part of the mold, this method comprising steps in which:

a) the molding chamber is provided with more molding paste than is necessary for molding the intermediate support element, and then

b) the movable part of the mold is moved toward the fixed part of the mold so as to cause the molding paste to flow between these fixed and movable parts and to discharge a surplus of molding paste through the discharge passage, until the mold delimits, apart from shrinkage, the final form of the intermediate support element.

Anderson et al. teach a method for molding an intermediate support element (20, fig 2) in which a mold (30, fig 60) is used which comprises at least one fixed part (32, fig 6) and one movable part (34, fig 6) and which delimits a molding chamber (36, fig 5) and at least one discharge passage (50, fig 6) communicating with this molding chamber, the latter comprising at least one portion (46, fig 6) which corresponds to said thinned zone (51, fig 6) of the intermediate support element and which is located

Art Unit: 3612

between the fixed part and the movable part of the mold, this method comprising steps in which:

a) the molding chamber is provided with more molding paste (90, fig 5) than is necessary for molding the intermediate support element, and then

b) the movable part of the mold is moved toward the fixed part of the mold so as to cause the molding paste to flow between these fixed and movable parts and to discharge a surplus of molding paste through the discharge passage, until the mold delimits, apart from shrinkage, the final form of the intermediate support element.

Regarding to claim 14, Anderson et al. furthermore teach a step b), the movable part of the mold is moved in a direction (D) (see fig 10 arrow orientation) substantially perpendicular to said thinned zone of the intermediate support element during molding.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify a intermediate support element such as that disclosed by Bruderick, to have a method of molding an intermediate support element, as taught by Anderson et al., in order to build a an intermediate support element to the right strength specifications to withstand certain collision deformities within range of capabilities to maintain original shape.

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yamamoto teaches a bumper beam. Renault teaches a



Art Unit: 3612

combination bumper skin and under-engine faring. Svendsen et al. teach front assembly for heavy goods vehicle. Campanella et al. teach bumper beam for motor vehicle.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SUNSURRAYE WESTBROOK whose telephone number is (571)270-7820. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8:30am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 517-272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. W./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3612

/Patricia L Engle/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3612